

Iowa, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in writing an opinion piece. We expressed our joint view that the death of Justice Scalia represented a significant loss for our country and that while finding the right person to take the seat he occupied will clearly be a monumental task, it is one we think the American people are more than well equipped to handle. Some disagree and would rather the Senate simply rush through yet another lifetime appointment for a President who is on his way out the door.

Of course, it is within the President's authority to nominate a successor even in this very rare circumstance. Remember, the Senate has not filled a vacancy arising in an election year when there was a divided government since 1888—almost 130 years ago. But we also know that article II, section 2 of the Constitution grants the Senate the right to withhold its consent as it deems necessary.

It is clear that concern over confirming Supreme Court nominations made near the end of a Presidential term is not new. Given that we are in the midst of the Presidential election process, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and I believe that today it is the American people who are best positioned to help make this important decision rather than a lameduck President whose priorities and policies they just rejected in the most recent national election.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. I would have voted nay.●

#### NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to the nomination of Dr. Mary Wakefield to the position of HHS Deputy Secretary.

The reason for my objection is the following: Last summer, separate inquiries from Chairman JOHNSON and myself and from Senators ERNST and BLUNT were sent to HHS regarding fetal tissue harvesting practices of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, an HHS grant recipient. Response to the letters did not fully answer the questions raised and, furthermore, raised additional concerns. Follow-up inquiries to HHS also failed to address some of the questions.

Today I sent a followup letter to Secretary Burwell in order to determine whether any audits of the fetal tissue programs have ever been undertaken.

#### REMEMBERING DAVID HURD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor David Hurd on his passing.

David was 86 years old, but his family and friends would tell you he packed much more into his years than even his long life would suggest.

He was a prominent businessman, chief executive officer of the Principal Financial Group from 1989 to 1994, and a member of the Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

He is credited with helping to build Principal into the global powerhouse company it is today.

David also was a well-regarded civic leader.

He wasn't a native Iowan, but Des Moines became his home in 1954 when he came to work for what was then Banker's Life, now Principal Financial.

Having lived in Des Moines for so many years, he became an advocate and an activist for making Des Moines an attractive place to live and work.

Des Moines is a thriving city today, and David did a lot to contribute to its success.

It was fitting that his longtime home was a high-rise building downtown, right in the middle of everything, where he could enjoy the benefits of city living and watch Des Moines change in so many positive ways.

David also held many hobbies and interests in diverse areas: running, patronizing the arts, playing Scrabble, rowing, protecting the environment, and more.

He made friends across these many fields who were united in their regard for his zest for life, sense of humor, and intellectual curiosity.

The phrase "renaissance man" is sometimes overused, but in David Hurd's case, it is 100-percent accurate.

Des Moines and the State of Iowa are richer for having had this renaissance man in our midst.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### CONGRATULATING VICTOR L. CAMPBELL

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, it is my honor today to congratulate Victor L. Campbell on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of American Hospitals.

Mr. Campbell has devoted 44 years of service to the Nation's health care delivery system and the patients it serves. He has represented the hospital community with distinction and has earned the great respect of his colleagues as a voice of wisdom.

He has played a role in shaping Federal health care policy for decades. Mr. Campbell is a three-time chairman and longtime board member of the Federation of American Hospitals. He has also served on the board of the American Hospital Association.

Mr. Campbell's commitment and tireless leadership has led to the cre-

ation of positive legislative solutions designed to strengthen and improve our Nation's health care infrastructure. He has also developed numerous collaborative initiatives between hospitals and the communities which they serve.

As a longtime resident of Nashville, in my home State of Tennessee, Mr. Campbell is also active in various community organizations, which promote innovation, education, and charitable activities.

Mr. Campbell, through force of personality, geniality, and dedication, has worked relentlessly to promote market-based, creative approaches to health care delivery which have made difference in the lives of countless patients at community hospitals across our Nation.

I sincerely congratulate Mr. Campbell on earning this distinguished award and wish him well.●

#### RECOGNIZING MAINE STITCHING SPECIALTIES

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the success of Maine Stitching Specialties, a fast-growing company that is quickly establishing itself as an important business in the Skowhegan manufacturing community. During the first week of March, Maine Stitching Specialties' founders, Bill and Julie Swain, will celebrate a major step forward in the expansion of their company as they team up with Wal-Mart to sell their premium textile goods. The company will commemorate this milestone with a ceremonial loading of the first truck and a celebratory farewell as the first shipment of goods departs to be sold at Wal-Mart stores.

Bill and Julie Swain founded their pet products company, Dogs Not Gone, 8 years ago, and since then, their business has expanded to employ 22 people at their new Maine Stitching Specialties manufacturing facility. Their successful expansion 15 months ago set Bill and Julie apart from their competition, and today their company is one of the largest in Skowhegan.

Maine Stitching Specialties' commitment to local manufacturing and high-quality products has garnered respect from numerous mainstream retail stores. In recent years, Bill and Julie have had the opportunity to sell their products to well-established companies like L.L. Bean and now Wal-Mart. Their reputation for manufacturing durable products and their commitment to the traditions and spirit of our State will ensure that Maine Stitching Specialties continues to grow and prosper.

Bill and Julie represent a strong community of small business owners who are devoted to boosting our State's economy and creating jobs in local communities. Manufacturing is at the heart of industry in Maine, and the success of hard-working people like Bill and Julie helps our State remain economically competitive.